

PUBLIC NOTICE
LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION

Notice of Availability of Funds

School of Juvenile Justice and Youth Development

Take notice that in compliance with N.J.S.A. 52:14-34.4, the New Jersey Governor's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee and the Juvenile Justice Commission hereby announce the availability of Title II formula grant funds for the following program:

- a. Name of program:** School of Juvenile Justice and Youth Development.

- b. Purpose:** The New Jersey Governor's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Committee, in partnership with the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) and the New Jersey Council on Juvenile Justice System Improvement (CJJSI), announces the availability of funding to support the development of a "school of juvenile justice and youth development" or similar center, institute, or program within an institute of higher-education in the State of New Jersey. The goal of this project is to increase the number advanced level learners in the field of juvenile justice (bachelors and/or masters) and to enhance the skills and knowledge of professionals currently working or who have an interest in the field of juvenile justice.

In New Jersey and elsewhere, the juvenile justice system is largely viewed as a subset of the criminal justice system: "criminal justice for kids." It has therefore often been used as a training ground for young professionals who embark on criminal justice careers.

Prosecution, indigent defense, probation, and law enforcement have routinely employed this strategy. Unfortunately, this has resulted in several regrettable consequences. First, it completely overlooks the fact that this is a separate system of justice for children rooted in a much different set of philosophical principles and empirical research. Second, it embraces the flawed assumption that the skill sets required in juvenile justice are identical to those used in criminal justice. Third, it suggests that the work of juvenile justice is less worthy, since proficiency eventually results in “advancing” to a career in criminal justice. Consequently, those who remain in juvenile justice – sometimes as a result of extraordinary effort on their part and at great personal cost – often suffer from low morale and stigmatization. This out-migration also dramatically reduces the pool of qualified leaders required for any system worth sustaining.

Any realistic expectation to maintain juvenile justice as a separate system of justice for children should anticipate the cultivation of a work force which recognizes and embraces the differences between the two systems. It should *recruit* those who have an express interest in and predisposition for this specialized work. Those recruited should be *trained* in the unique skill sets required for work in a child-serving system and offered professional development and credentialing opportunities which acknowledge professionalism and proficiency. Ultimately, such investment in these specialized skills should result in *retaining* these individuals in juvenile justice careers, thus enriching the pool of qualified future leaders and further ensuring the sustenance of this critically important system.

The successful applicant will be expected to work collaboratively and cooperatively with the JJDP Committee, the CJJSI, and JJC staff to ensure the project is implemented as

intended. An application specifying the requirements for a project eligible for funding is available at <http://www.nj.gov/oag/jjc/noafs.htm>.

c. Funding available: \$375,000.

- Anticipated start and end date: December 1, 2016, to November 31, 2019;
- Total number of grants to be awarded: One.
- Please note that this is a reimbursement grant.
- Funding for this initiative is subject to the appropriation and availability of sufficient funds.

Smaller awards in subsequent years to supplement any scholarship program established by the successful applicant may be made available depending on the availability of Federal funds. The successful applicant must demonstrate the ability and commitment to financially sustain the school or similar center, institute, or program beyond the grant period.

d. Organizations that may apply for funding under this program: Applicants that may apply are New Jersey State universities or colleges.

e. Procedures to apply: Applicants that wish to apply for funding must submit an application by **3:00 P.M. on August 8, 2016**, containing all items in the notice of available funds (NOAF) and the application, which is available at <http://www.nj.gov/oag/jjc/noafs.htm>. The application provides the scoring criteria that will be used in selecting a project for funding.

Applicants should anticipate that failure to submit an application containing all elements specified in the NOAF and application, will negatively affect the review of their application.

Should the JJC decide to make an award, the award may include special conditions that preclude access to or use of award funds pending satisfaction of the conditions. Applications that do not contain the mandatory requirements or do not follow the application format will not be scored and will not be considered for funding. Applications that do not score a minimum of 80 out of 100 possible points will not be considered for funding. Applicants that score 80 or higher may be required to participate in an interview. The interview will affect the applicant's final score.

f. Address of the State agency receiving the applications: Applicants should submit one original application and six copies via mail to the attention of Nicole Gordon at the address below:

Via Courier Service, US Postal Service,

Fed Ex, UPS, or Hand Delivery

Juvenile Justice Commission

JJDP/Grants Unit

1001 Spruce Street, Suite 202

Ewing, NJ 08638

Applicant Bidders Conference:

In an effort to assist candidates in applying for these funds, a mandatory bidders' conference will be held on April 7th at 10:00 am, at the JJC's Central Office, in conference room 3, 1001 Spruce Street, Trenton, NJ, Suite 202. One or more representatives from the applicant school should attend in order to have questions regarding the NOAF answered. Please come with any

questions you have regarding this NOAF and project expectations. Please note the information provided during this bidders' conference will not be made available in any other form.

g. Deadline by which applications must be submitted: Applications must be received, not postmarked if mailed, by **August 8, 2016**, no later than **3:00 P.M.** Please note that any applications received after this date and time will be administratively rejected.

h. Date by which notices shall be mailed of approval or disapproval of applications: No later than October 7, 2016.